

Information for Parents about Learning at Home



Friday 20th March 2020

Dear Parent

As you are aware, the First Minister announced on Wednesday that schools will be closed by the end of this week until further notice due to the Coronavirus pandemic. These are incredibly worrying and challenging times for us all as our lives significantly change.

Like many schools, staff have been working incredibly hard over the past two weeks to ensure that education can still be delivered to your child despite the school being closed. Fortunately, we live in an age where digital technologies allow us to stay connected with each other and this is no different for schools. I am acutely aware that parents will have significant concerns about their child's education which I hope to be able to address below.

What will learning look like for my child?

- In nursery, ideas will be posted on your child's ILD and also the school website in the nursery section.
- Staff will prepare learning for your child initially in the 3 key core areas of **Literacy, Numeracy and Health & Wellbeing** each day. This will come in the form of a range of tasks. In the longer term, other curricular areas may be incorporated into the daily learning.
- Each class has a page on our school website where staff will outline the tasks for your child to complete.
- All pupils who were present on Thursday were allowed to select 3 books from our school library to take home to read. A class novel was also given home to pupils on Thursday/Friday.
- Pupils should keep a record in their homework diary of what they do on a daily basis.

What should I do if I have access to technology?

- Your child will have a Google Classroom account with their own unique username and password. On our school website there is a guide to Google for parents which will explain how to log in. <https://www.hazelhead-ps.aberdeen.sch.uk/google-classroom-parents-guide/> In Google Classroom, the teacher will assign class learning for your child to complete. The 'hand in' option allows your child to submit their learning for the teacher to read, check and give feedback.
- Please refer to Aberdeen City's Acceptable Users Policy to ensure that your child uses Google responsibly. <https://www.hazelhead-ps.aberdeen.sch.uk/acceptable-use-policy/> I am aware that there are aspects of Google that allows children to communicate with one another. I can't stress enough that Google Classroom is **not** a chat room or social media platform for children to talk with one another. If I become aware of any inappropriate use, I will be contacting you to discuss alternative educational arrangements.

What if I don't have access to technology?

- Please don't worry if you don't have access to technology or if for some reason you have technological issues. As in previous communication, please contact Miss. Beard CBeard@aberdeencity.gov.uk for further support as a device and internet access can be made available for you.
- Remember, your child has been given a jotter home for them to record any learning.

How long should my child spend on learning each day?

- There is no real set time as this will depend on individual family circumstances at different times throughout the period of school closure. That said, you could aim for a minimum of 2 hours of learning per day. An example timetable is attached just for reference.

What if my child is really struggling with the learning or I'm finding it hard to get them to engage?

- Please don't worry as we know that children can react in different ways when their routine is significantly disrupted. If you have any concerns at all, please do not hesitate in contacting a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Mrs. Jones (Head Teacher) bajones@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Mrs. Bruce (Nursery – P3) hebruce@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Miss. Beard (P4 – P7) cbeard@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Mrs. Stuart (P4 – P7) lstuart@aberdeencity.gov.uk

How do I contact my child's teacher?

- You can contact your child's teacher via Google Classroom as and when appropriate. Please be considerate when making contact and remember that you will not always get an immediate response. However, if you have greater concerns about your child's education, please contact a member of the Senior Leadership Team as outlined above.

My child has additional support needs. How will they be supported?

- Please don't worry as we will continue to provide the additional support your child requires in their learning. Mrs. Will is working alongside class teachers to ensure that adaptations are made to assigned class learning so that it is appropriate for your child to complete.

My child receives EAL (English as an Additional Language) support. Will they still be supported?

- We have received information from the EAL Service to let us know that they have set up a Google Classroom for the small number of pupils that they see from Hazlehead. If your child receives EAL support, an invitation has been sent to your child on Google Classroom asking them to join. There is also a new 'Learning at Home' tab on the Aberdeen City EAL Service website with information about useful apps and website to support your child.

What about my child's annual report and parent interview?

- Fortunately, staff are in the final stages of completing the annual reports. These still have to be read by our Senior Leadership Team. We will endeavour to have them read, printed and sent to you at some point after the Easter break. Parents will be notified via the website.
- With regards to parent interviews, this will be dependent on whether the school will open again before the summer holidays.

My child has medication in school. What will happen to this?

- We have made the decision to keep your child's medication in school in the optimistic event of school re-opening before summer. If this is not the case, you will be given your child's medicine back at an appropriate time.

My child should be starting Nursery, P1 or S1 after the summer holidays. What will happen with transitions?

- Unfortunately, we can't answer this question at this time as we do not know for certain how long schools will be closed for. Keep checking our school website regularly for updated information. We acknowledge that these milestones are incredibly important to families and will endeavour to make sure these are not forgotten. Please have faith!

What about arrangements for August 2020 if the school does not open before the summer holidays?

- Unfortunately, we can't answer this question at this time as we do not know for certain how long schools will be closed for. Keep checking our school website regularly for updated information.

How can I keep up-to-date with the changes that are taking place over the forthcoming weeks and months?

- Keep checking our school website regularly for updated information as we continue to respond to guidance given from Scottish Government and Aberdeen City Council. I have created a Mrs. Jones's Hub on the school website for all the latest information to be uploaded to.
<https://www.hazlehead-ps.aberdeen.sch.uk/mrs-joness-info-hub/>

How can we maintain a sense of normality in amongst these difficult times?

- We are working very hard behind the scenes here to try and continue to deliver experiences that are consistent with the Hazlehead way! Incredible Work, Pet of the Week, Golden Book, Assemblies, P.E etc. will soon become a weekly feature of your child's learning after the Easter break but in a very different way. Please keep checking our website regularly for updated information.
- Unfortunately, other annual events may not be able to take place for obvious reasons, for example, Sports Day. However, if we are still closed by the end of term, we will still have some form of Achievement Assembly recognition and House Trophy awarded.

Finally, as a school community, we are now facing some very testing times once more but if there is one thing that I have learned about us is that we are incredibly compassionate and resilient individuals when faced with adversity. I wish you and your loved ones good health and the courage and strength to face the difficult times ahead. I look forward to seeing you in the near future as we embrace very new ways of working and delivering education to our pupils of whom we are immensely proud.

Take care and thank you for your ongoing patience and support as we all work together to come through the difficult times that lie ahead,

"It is only in our darkest hours that we may discover the true strength of the brilliant light within ourselves that can never, ever, be dimmed."

Barbara Jones



An Example Timetable



Before 9am	NORMAL MORNING ROUTINE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have breakfast and get dressed• Make your bed and tidy your bedroom if you can!
9am - 10am	SCHOOL WORK	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Check your class web page for tasks for the day• Go onto Google Classroom and complete learning set by your teacher
10am - 11am	BREAK & FREE TIME	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have a snack and a drink of water• Be active if you can• Play outside if you are you able to but remember to keep your distance from other children
11am - 12pm	SCHOOL WORK	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Check your class web page for tasks for the day• Go onto Google Classroom and complete learning set by your teacher
12pm - 1pm	LUNCH	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have your lunch - even better if you help to make it and tidy up afterwards!• Have a break and relax!
1pm - 2pm	SCHOOL WORK	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Check your class web page for tasks for the day• Go onto Google Classroom and complete learning set by your teacher
2pm - 3pm	95 Things To Do Before You Leave Hazlehead	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Take a look at '95 Things To Do Before You Leave Hazlehead'• Choose 1 that you are able to complete and record what you did

While you are at home, remember our school values. Think about how you can continue to keep them part of who you are and how you behave - just like you would at Hazlehead Primary!



"When you believe in yourself anything is possible."